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Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 February 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The necessity of being obligated to international resolutions for confining acts of terrorist groups*

Many national laws and international resolutions have been ratified on the condemnation of terrorism; a lot of international institutions have been established for implementation of these regulations and various types of measures have been carried out in national and international levels for countering terrorism and confining the activities of terrorist groups. One of these instruments is the *Resolution 60/288* of the UN General Assembly which emphasizes that the UN Member States have to take appropriate measures, before granting asylum, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum-seeker has not engaged in terrorist activities. Observing this provision can not only control the activities of terrorist groups, but also can contribute in safeguarding the rights of victims of terrorism.

In countering terrorism, we need to take a multilateral view; a kind of approach which on one hand obliges us to counter terrorism and on the other hand makes us committed to the preservation of the dignity of the victims of terrorism. For fighting against terrorism and controlling its impacts and destructive consequences, a global consensus is required. Pledging to this Resolution, the UN Member States not only can take a major step in ensuring the security of their citizens but also they would observe the rights of the people targeted in terrorist attempts.

On this basis, owing to its concrete understanding and knowledge of terrorist groups, Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, calls on all UN Member States to guarantee the security of their citizens by observing the provisions of this Resolution and do not make their countries a safe haven for terrorists.

ADVT expresses its members' concern by posing the question that whether Albania and Germany have taken this Resolution into account while accepting members of the terrorist group of Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK)? What would guarantee that the resettlement of MEK members in Germany will not be a threat against German citizens? How could the governments of Germany and Albania ensure Iranian victims of the terrorist acts of MEK, that these countries will not turn to a base for terrorist measures of this group? It is worth mentioning that the terrorist attacks of the MEK (MKO), during the past three decades, have taken the lives of thousands of people; Iranian, Iraqi and American victims have been killed in the terrorist attempts of MEK against public places and the offices of British, American and Dutch companies in Iran.

Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism calls on all UN Member States to consider the following three conditions in examining the requests of members of this group for having refugee status, in order to provide the required guarantee for the safety and security of their citizens and observing the rights of victims:

- **Leaving the governing structure over terrorist organization;** the dominant cultic structure of this group is a potential threat for committing violent terrorist acts.
- **Expressing regret for the past violent acts;** this is the minimum request for preserving the status and dignity of the victims of terrorism.
- **Exiting the dominance of the guiding ideology;** this group used to justify its conduct based on a belligerent ideology and today the same ideology is still being embraced on their agenda.

Setting out these conditions we could pin our hope on the limitation of violence and extremism.

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* The House of Eternal Culture without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.